

REMARKS

In the July 25, 2005 Office Action, the specification were objected to and claims 1-20 stand rejected in view of prior art. Claims 10-12 also were rejected for failing to indicate and claim particularly and distinctly the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. In the July 25, 2005 Office Action, all of the claims stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the July 25, 2005 Office Action, Applicants have amended the specification and claims 1, 10, and 13 as indicated above. Further, Applicants have amended claim 18 to correct a typographical error. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending, with claims 1 and 13 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Information Disclosure Statement

In item 1 of the Office Action, it was indicated that the listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. In response, Applicants submit herewith under a separate cover sheet an Information Disclosure Statement providing the mentioned reference.

Specification

In item 3 of the Office Action, the specification was objected to for typographical errors and unclear language. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to correct the errors.

Specifically, the sub-paragraph starting on page 9 has been amended to clarify the cross section that is shown in Figure 3. The misspelling on the last line of page 15 has been

corrected, and the drive member 52 and first torsion spring 58A have respectively been properly identified on page 18, line 1 and page 18, line 4.

Applicants believe that the specification is now correct. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

In item 5 of the Office Action, claims 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have amended claims 10 to clarify claims 10-12.

Specifically, claim 10, line 5 has been amended to recite -- said first angle -- to clarify the claims.

Applicants believe that the claims now comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In item 7 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,138,011 (Stromberg). Further, in item 8 of the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,347,717 (Lamarche). In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 13 to define clearly the present invention over the prior art of record.

In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the second rotating member is fixed to a hub and arranged to interpose the first rotating member in an axial direction. Further, claim 13 has similarly been amended to recite that the second disk member is arranged to interpose the first disk member in an axial direction, and is fixed to a hub.

As seen in Figure 1 of Stromberg, Stromberg discloses a second rotating member or disk member 7 that is fixed to a hub but does not interpose the first rotating member or disk

10, which is not fixed to the hub. Further, as seen in Figure 2 of Lamarche, Lamarche discloses rotating members or disks 32 and 33, and 65 and 68 that are not fixed to a hub.

Clearly, this structure is *not* disclosed or suggested by Stromberg, Lamarche, or any other prior art of record. It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 13, as now amended, are not anticipated by the prior art of record. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicants believe that the dependent claims are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 1 and 13, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art of record does not anticipate independent claims 1 and 13, neither does the prior art anticipate the dependent claims.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Prior Art Citation


In the Office Action, additional prior art references were made of record. Applicants believe that these references do not render the claimed invention obvious.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/787,171
Amendment dated September 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2005

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: 9/22/05
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